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EAST GERMANY COMMUNIST PARTY PREPARES FOR PURGE

TO EXAMINE ALL MEMBERS -- Stockholm, Dagens Nyheter, 14 Jan 51

Berlin, 13 January -- The great purge of the East German Communist Party, scheduled to last 6 months, begins on 15 January. The forthcoming purge was announced at the SED congress last summer, and extensive preparation for it has been in progress since then. Judgment will be passed on all members and candidates for membership by 4,000 examining boards consisting of 21,000 examiners, the most reliable of the old reliable party men, who will render one of three verdicts: issuance of new party books for the old ones surrendered, demotion of the member to the status of candidate, or outright expulsion from the party.

About 1,750,000 members will pass before these "tribunals," and it is expected that a great number of "agents, spies, and monopolists" will be disclosed. Agents and spies will be turned over immediately to the security police. Members of bourgeois origin and wealthy farmers and their kin will be subjected to particularly close scrutiny to ascertain their desirability as party members. Those who have had some sort of contact with the West are also under strong suspicion. No one will be accepted into the party as long as the purge is in progress.

Upon conclusion of the purge, pertinent data on all remaining members will be entered in a so-called "basic book" (grundbok); this book will be kept current. Not only will this be a political record of all individual members, but it will also list their likes and dislikes, their good and bad habits, and details on their personal lives. Members are not permitted to see this book. Those receiving new party membership cards must pledge themselves to perform such activities as the party deems necessary, no matter what these missions may be.

The primary function of the examining boards is said to be "education," to set those who have followed the right trend on the much narrower "true" course through basic Marxist schooling. -- Bo Järborg, Dagens Nyheter's Berlin correspondent

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MEMBER IMMORALITY CRITERION FOR PARTY PURGE -- Stockholm, Dagens Nyheter,  
11 Jan 51

Berlin, 10 January -- Herman Matern, the leader of the SED's Party Control Commission, states in the party house organ that the morals and sexual lives of party members and functionaries must be subjected to close scrutiny in connection with the great purge in the party. "Morally loose persons, who always place the satisfaction of their passions ahead of the party, must be ousted ruthlessly," the article stated.

"To switch from one affair to another, like changing shirts," continues the party moralist, "is a hangover from decadent bourgeois morality. If a comrade who spent a long time in prison or concentration camp develops the theory that he has a lot to make up for, that is a hangover from Nazi immorality."

It would be utopian to believe, says Matern, that the SED can be a party of paragons of heroic proportions, but those who reel drunkenly through the streets or attend party meetings in that condition are not serving the party cause. Neither is the wretch who regards life as a quest for boorish pleasures, or a person who is coarse and dirty-minded in his relations with the opposite sex. The decisive factor in every case, Matern states, is whether or not the individual's behavior is of benefit or injury to the party.

The so-called "bourgeois" parties in East Germany must quickly harmonize with the new tune arising from the stiffening of the SED ranks. One of the leaders of the LDP declares that it is now high time for the members to show that their party has found the road to the new liberalism. The new liberalism means utilizing in a liberal way the progress attained by people's democracy.

The East German CDU has ordered re-examination of the individual members' attitudes, so that that party may continue to make its appearance as a true Christian party of a new type. -- Bo Järborg, Dagens Nyheter's Berlin correspondent

MEMBERSHIP IN FREE GERMAN YOUTH TO BE MADE COMPULSORY -- Koblenz, Rheinischer Merkur, 11 Nov 50

According to informed circles, it will be compulsory for all youths in East Germany to join the Free German Youth or the Young Pioneer movement by spring 1951. While until now membership in the Free German Youth has been required only for those who wished to enter a school of higher learning, in the future, entering a professional or trade school as well as learning a trade will depend on membership in the Free German Youth.

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